



## El Portal Market

### What is the status of the El Portal Market?

The El Portal Market provides a wide variety of merchandise for El Portal residents and visitors traveling to Yosemite National Park. Hugh Carter has been an excellent partner to the National Park Service in operating the market for over 40 years under the terms of successive Concession Contracts. Mr. Carter has notified the National Park Service that he plans to retire at the end of current contract extension which expires December 31, 2007. The National Park Service is currently preparing a prospectus to acquire a new concessioner to assure the continued operation of the market.



### What is the process and timeline for acquiring a new concessioner?

In accordance with public law and regulation (36 CFR 51), concessioners are selected through a competitive bidding process. The prospectus for the market was released on October 19, 2007 for a 60- day response period with proposals due by December 18, 2007. Once the offers are received, the Pacific West Regional Office of the National Park Service will convene a panel to evaluate the offers and make a recommendation regarding the award of a new concession contract. The new concession contract will allow the market to operate essentially as it has over the past several years. The target date for a new concession contract is about March 1, 2008 if not sooner.

The term of the new Concession Contract to provide general store grocery and general merchandise services will be for six (6) years beginning on its effective date. The prospectus is available for review at <http://concessions.nps.gov/news.cfm>.

### Will any changes be made to the El Portal Market?

The market building, which is owned by the National Park Service, needs to be refurbished. The planned refurbishment will include a new floor covering and painting. The work will take place soon after the beginning of the new year. Expansion of the market will not take place under the new concession contract. The potential expansion of the market to meet community and visitor needs will be considered as part of the El Portal Town Plan, which will be undertaken jointly with Mariposa County in the next few years. This interim contract will provide the time needed to complete the El Portal Town Plan.

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## Will the El Portal Market close?

The refurbishment of the market building, as described in the last question, will require that the market be closed to business for a period expected to be less than 60 days—the minimum time needed for project completion. It will occur after the existing concession contract expires, but before the new operator takes over.

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## For more information

For more information about this project, contact Marty Nielson, Chief of Business and Revenue Management at [marty\\_nielson@nps.gov](mailto:marty_nielson@nps.gov) or by mail at:

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